

Loudoun County Health Department

P.O. Box 7000
Leesburg, VA 20177-7000

Best Practices for Private Water Wells

1. Wells should be lined, or “cased,” with welded lengths of steel pipe, which are grouted in place. Because the outside surface of the well casing is a direct conduit to the aquifer, the top of the well should be surrounded by a concrete pad and tightly capped, or “sealed.”
2. Do not spread or store fertilizer, pesticides, petroleum products, or other chemicals in the zone around the well.
3. The wellhead area should be graded or landscaped so that standing water cannot accumulate around the well.
4. Homeowners and prospective home buyers should be aware that there is no regulatory requirement for water sampling after the well is initially sampled. Periodic testing of the well water is recommended.
5. Test domestic wells for coliform bacteria, nitrates, and other suspected compounds at least annually, and keep a record of these as a “background” for evaluating any future pollution. Also record the dates that muddiness or low water level problems occur, as well as current and recent climatic conditions.
6. If a well is no longer in use, it should be properly abandoned. The Loudoun County Health Department regulates the practice of well abandonments. Alternatively, if you are interested in donating the use of your well to the Loudoun County groundwater monitoring program, you can contact the Loudoun County Department of Building and Development at www.loudoun.gov/well-donation to see if your well meets certain criteria for the monitoring program.
7. Be sure your well driller follows all applicable state permit guidelines for water well construction and development.

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